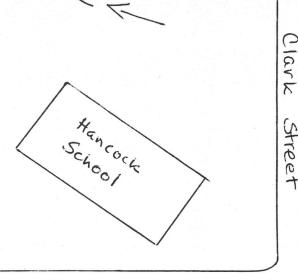
## FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION Office of the Secretary, State House, Boston



4. Map. Draw sketch of building location in relation to nearest cross streets and other buildings. Indicate north.



Forest Street

| DO NOT WRITE<br>USGS Quadrant_ | IN | THIS | SPACE |
|--------------------------------|----|------|-------|
| MHC Photo no                   |    |      |       |

(over)

## NR Individual 8/22/75

| 1   | In Area no. | Form no. |
|-----|-------------|----------|
| V ; | K           | 440      |
| v + |             |          |

| ١.                                    | TOWII  | Lexington                           |  |  |  |
|---------------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|--|--|--|
|                                       | Address                                      | 33 Forest Street                    |  |  |  |
|                                       | Name   | Hancock School                      |  |  |  |
|                                       | Present use                                  | school                              |  |  |  |
|                                       |  |                                     |  |  |  |
|                                       | Present owner                                | Town of Lexington                   |  |  |  |
| 3.                                    | Description:                                 |                                     |  |  |  |
|                                       | Date   | 1891                                |  |  |  |
|                                       | Source                                       | plaque on building                  |  |  |  |
|                                       | Style  | Romanesque Revival                  |  |  |  |
|                                       | Architect                                    | Hartwell and Richardson             |  |  |  |
| Exterior wall fabric red brick/sandst |  |                                     |  |  |  |
|                                       | and copper trim Outbuildings (describe) none |                                     |  |  |  |
|                                       | Other features                               | porte-cochere, original             |  |  |  |
|                                       | window sash                                  | , gray slate roof, dormers          |  |  |  |
|                                       | brick bond                                   | patterns, turrets, etc.             |  |  |  |
|                                       | Altered                                      | Date                                |  |  |  |
|                                       | Moved  | Date                                |  |  |  |
| 5.                                    | Lot size:                                    |                                     |  |  |  |
|                                       | One acre or le                               | Over one acre X  357' on Forest St. |  |  |  |
| 4                                     | Approximate fr                               | ontage 685' on Clark St.            |  |  |  |
|                                       | Approximate distance of building from street |                                     |  |  |  |
|                                       | 75   | 5 feet                              |  |  |  |

John Herzan 6. Recorded by for Committee For The Organization Preservation of The Hancock School 25/January/1975

Fi. 3 5 1975

William I. Switchely

| 7. | Original owner (if known)   | Town of Lexingt  | on |  | <br>       |
|----|---|--|----|--|------------|
|    | Original use  | school   |    | and the second s | <br>Sp. F. |
|    | Subsequent uses (if any) and d  | ates   |    |  | ļ          |
| 8. | Themes (check as many as ap   | plicable)  |    |  |            |
|    | Aboriginal Agricultural Architectural The Arts Commerce Communication Community development | Conservation Education Exploration/ settlement Industry Military Political | X  | Recreation Religion Science/ invention Social/ humanitarian Transportation   |            |

9. Historical significance (include explanation of themes checked above)

The Hancock School was designed in 1890 by the prominent Boston architectural firm of Hartwell and Richardson, 19th century specialists in school architecture whose work is represented in many suburbs around Boston. The Hancock School is among the firm's best preserved and more imaginative interpretations of the Romanesque Revival which Henry H. Richardson introduced to Boston and vicinity. In Lexington the Hancock School is important as the only known work by Hartwell and Richardson and as one of the best examples of Romanesque public architecture.

In addition, the building is Lexington's oldest extant school-house in continuous operation since its opening in 1891. The Hancock School is very well remembered among its alumni and continues to serve the school children of Lexington by providing a fascinating architectural environment for playing and learning.

A recent architectural study commissioned by the Town of Lexington has indicated that the five oldest schools in operation should be phased out of existance and replaced. While demolition of the Hancock School is not yet certain, the likeihood of this happening is very real. In response to this threat a local citizens group has formed to save the school from this unworthy fate.

10. Bibliography and/or references (such as local histories, deeds, assessor's records, early maps, etc.)

Report of the Committee Appointed To Consider the Subject Of Building

A NEW School-House For The Hancock School, Lexington, Mass.

Vogel, Susan, "Hartwell and Richardson: An Introduction To Their Work,"

J.S.A.H. (May, 1973).